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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 30 | Min 19 | Humidity 48% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 66,282 | Nifty 19,751 | Gold 59,415 | Silver 71,368 | Dollar 83.42 | Euro 87.70 | GBP 101.14

What happens if you lose a valuable electronic item or jewellery while flying out of Bengaluru?

FINDERS KEEPERS

At least 5,000 items misplaced at airport per month

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Ever left behind a valuable piece of electronics or jewellery at the airport? According to data provided by Bengaluru International Airport Ltd (BIAL), nearly 5,000 misplaced items are deposited at the airport's 'lost and found' section each month. This year, 55,256 items were deposited at the section from January to September.

BIAL authorities said, on average, about 1,000 electronic items are left behind by passengers every month. This includes personal electronic items ranging from mobiles to iPads, and from headphones/earphones to device chargers, and so on.

"In a month, on average, 4,000-5,000 items left behind by travellers at the airport are deposited at the 'lost and found' wing. Apart from nearly a thousand electronic items, we also find about 300 neck pillows and clothes, about 250 watches; about 700 ID cards

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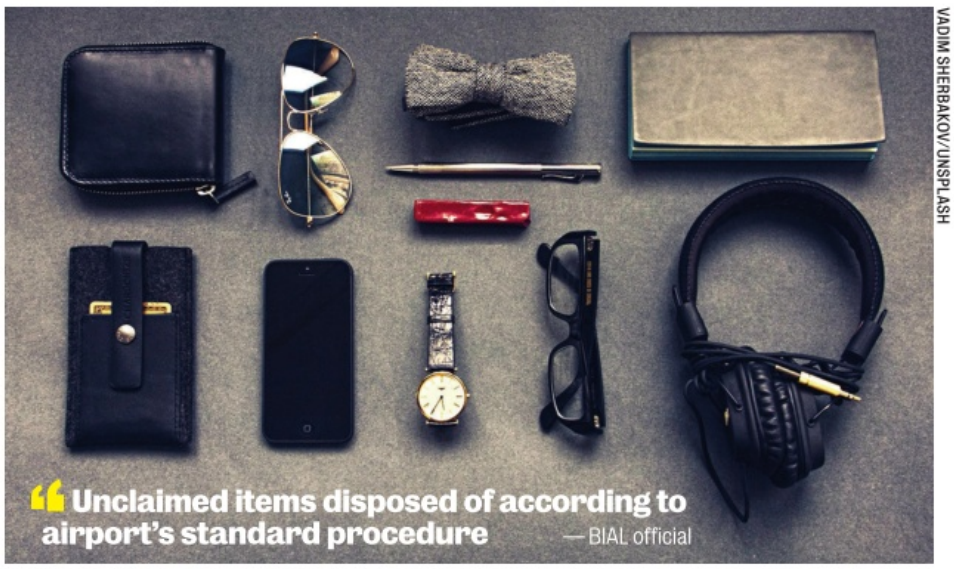
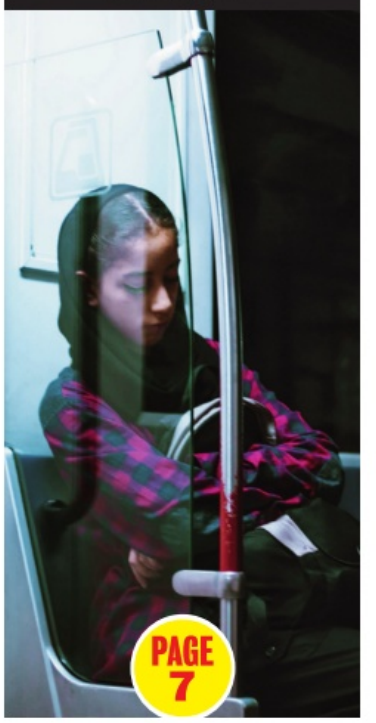


VADIM SHERBAKOV/UNSPLASH

"Unclaimed items disposed of according to airport's standard procedure — BIAL official

Missing links

Just half of metro stations have parking; only 30% have feeder services



PAGE 7

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Ancestors remembered

Thousands offer tharpanam to gratify the souls of their ancestors during Mahalaya Amavasya, on Saturday, in front of Kashi Vishweshwara Swamy Temple, in Chickpet

No easy breathing

City docs report rise in number of upper respiratory tract infections among adults; say 30 out of 60 patients seen in OPD have been recently diagnosed

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School With the change in weather conditions, health professionals are seeing a significant spurt in the number of upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs) in the last week, with some even requiring admissions. Notably, the cases are seen in adults, with many having to skip their colleges or offices due to the infection.

According to Dr Brunda, Consultant, Internal Medicine, Aster CMI Hospital, the URTI cases have increased over the past week. "Thirty out of sixty patients seen in the OPD recently have been diagnosed with URTI, and it is noticed mainly among adults. Changing weather conditions are the key contributor to the sudden increase in URTI infections. These are common during the rainy and winter seasons, as this is the season when people spend more time indoors, coming into more contact with people." However, there are several factors, such as chronic health conditions, weak immunity, smoking, and age. Children under the age of five and senior citizens are also susceptible to infection due to weak or developing immune systems, she added.

Some of the types of URTI are rhinitis (inflammation of the nasal passages), tracheitis (inflammation of the trachea, or windpipe), croup (a respiratory illness that causes a barking cough), pharyngitis, sinusitis, laryngitis, and epiglottitis. While the most common ones are common colds, sore throats, sinusitis, laryngitis, and epiglottitis, they are caused mainly by exposure to bacteria. Dr Anjali R Nath, Consultant Pulmonologist, SPARSH Hospital, said, "The increase in cases of URTI can be attributed to the changing seasons, which often lead to a higher incidence of exacerbations of pre-existing lung diseases such as asthma or COPD and allergic airway disease, along with viral infections. Viral infections are chiefly spread through respiratory droplets, contributing to notable community transmission." She further explained that this surge is particularly affecting individuals with allergies and pre-existing respiratory conditions. Some cases progress to the extent of requiring hospital admissions, especially when upper respiratory infections escalate into pneumonia. Notably, H1N1 cases are on the rise, posing a more severe threat compared to other viral infections.

"We are also observing an increase in post-viral bronchitis, characterized by a lingering cough, sometimes lasting for weeks," she added.

Several factors such as chronic health conditions, weak immunity, smoking, contribute to URTIs

Common symptoms

- Fever over 101 degrees Celsius
- Flu-like symptoms
- Runny nose
- Cold
- Throat infection
- Severe cough
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing Chest pain

Preventive measures

- Hydration
- Proper nutrition
- Adequate rest
- Avoidance of unnecessary travel and large gatherings
- Staying home when unwell helps prevent the spread of infections
- Encompassing mask wearing
- For individuals with underlying health conditions such as respiratory ailments, diabetes, kidney issues, or cardiac problems, vaccination is strongly recommended

> **"Changing weather conditions are the key contributor to the sudden increase in URTI infections** – Dr Brunda

This apart, Dr Narendranath A, Consultant, ENT Specialist, Fortis Hospital, Nagarbhavi, disclosed that URTI can even progress to middle ear infection, causing severe pain. "A ventilation tube connects the middle ear to the back portion of your nose, called the 'Eustachian tube'. Sometimes an infection from your nose or throat(cold or throat pain), i.e., URTI, can progress to a middle ear infection, causing severe ear pain, ear fullness, or blockage. If not treated at this stage, the eardrum can perforate, leading to ear discharge."

She informed that they are seeing an increase in such cases due to delays in seeking medical care and inadequate control of URTI. Prompt treatment is required; otherwise, this can lead to recurring ear infections and decreased hearing in the future. This is more common in children, and we do see some cases in adults too.

The doctors pointed out that it is important for all age groups to take the flu vaccination once every year. Additionally, there is a pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine recommended for individuals over 65 years of age and those with underlying lung conditions. These vaccines reduce the risk of infection and its severity.

BM NAVARANG 2023

Today's Colour
YELLOW

The joyous Navaratri festival has arrived, and it's time to immerse yourself in the celebrations with **Bangalore Mirror Navarang.** Ladies, here's the exciting part – you have the opportunity to adorn yourself in sarees of the colour designated for the day. Gather your favorite companions, capture group selfies in your vibrant sarees, and be sure to embrace the day's thematic color.

Share your group photos/selfies, including names, addresses, and mobile numbers, with us on our WhatsApp line by 3 PM daily.

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The most captivating group photo stands a chance to be showcased in BM-Navarang

Please note-Tomorrow's colour code is White

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Exclusive variety

Grab the chance to attend the Indian artefacts exhibition-cum-sale, where you can explore a variety of Indian traditional textures, rich art and crafts, and artefacts made by native artisans. The event aims to encourage rural artists. The variety of artefacts ranges from tribal to plains, from the Himalayas to coastal areas. **Where: Chitrakala Parishath When: until October 22**

02 Colours of dandiya

This Navratri, don't miss to groove on dandiya beats. Get your dandiya partners to the Navaratri Dandiya Festival, organised by Rotary Bugle Rock and Rotary District 3191 Shristi Centre. And guess what? The entry to this festival is free. You can also watch various dance forms being performed at the venue. **Where: Ravindra Kalakshetra; When: October 18; 5 pm to 10 pm**

03 Laugh more

The International Clown Festival is back in the city. With award-winning professional clowns, interactive performances, workshops, and more, the event is set to enthral everybody. Don't miss the opportunity to attend a theatre show of non-stop laughter that will be held at two venues in the city. This festival is curated by Martin Flubber D'Souza. **Where: Prestige Auditorium (Oct 19 and 20), and Good Shepherd Auditorium (Oct 21 and 22) When: October 19 and 20 at 4 pm and 7 pm, and October 21 and 22 at 3 pm and 6 pm**

Vehicle boom: Are we choking on our commutes?

Bengaluru witnesses 62% surge in private vehicles, sparking traffic worries

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Recent data reveals that out of 99.83 lakh non-transport vehicles, 98.76 (99%) are cars and two-wheelers

Bengaluru's current vehicular population has surged to 1.12 crore as of September 30, 2023. Out of these, nearly 89% are non-transport vehicles, including two-wheelers, cars, omnibuses, tractors, private service vehicles, etc. If the data from the Karnataka Transport Department is anything to go by, the city continues to witness a steady rise in the number of new non-transport vehicles registered every month.

The city has registered more than a 62% surge in private vehicles over the last two years. Bengaluru registered 1.93 lakh private (non-transport) vehicles between April and October 2021. This number surged to 3.42 lakh in the same period in 2022. This year, over 3.13 lakh non-transport vehicles have already been registered over the last six months (between April and September).

The data shared by the transport department also shows that out of 99.83 lakh non-transport vehicles, 98.76 (99%) are cars and two-wheelers. Mobility experts say this trend needs to be reversed immediately to improve the quality of life in the city. Upgrading and expanding road infrastructure will never solve traffic congestion. Only a reliable and affordable public transport system can be an answer to Bengaluru's traffic.

"This is not a good sign, and we need to reverse this trend to improve the quality of life in the city. This can be achieved by drastically improving public transport and taking every measure required to discourage private vehicles, including dumping the tunnel road project. Such projects, along with road widening and more flyover constructions, are only going to encourage private vehicles, nullifying all the measures taken so far to promote public transport," said a city-based public mobility expert.

Experts say a massive push is required, and all the resources must be diverted toward public transport infrastructure, such as fast-tracking the suburban rail project, revamping BMTC buses, and focusing on the metro.

"We should look at expanding road infrastructure only after we have saturated the city with public transport options. However, for some unknown reasons, the authorities seem to be more interested in projects that are not in the city's interest. For instance, we have suggested that at every metro station, dual BMTC feeder services should cover about a three-kilometre diameter area on each side of the corridor. If implemented, this will imply that 40% of the city has multi-modal public transport available. Measures such as these will take a lot of vehicles off the road," said Rajkumar Dugar, a public transport enthusiast.

> **"This is not a good sign, we need to reverse this trend to improve the quality of life in the city. This can be achieved by drastically improving public transport** –a public mobility expert

College student killed in BMTC bus accident

A college student lost his life when a Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus collided with his two-wheeler, ultimately resulting in a fatal run-over. The tragic event unfolded on a Saturday morning in Yeshwanthpur area. The Yeshwanthpur Traffic Police Station has opened a case regarding the accident.

The victim, identified as Gangadhar, a 21-year-old college student, was going to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to collect his internship certificate.

On Saturday morning, a BMTC bus struck Gangadhar's two-wheeler from behind; the front tyre rolled over his head, instantly killing him. Gangadhar was wearing a helmet at the time of the collision, but it came loose when he fell off the bike.

Gangadhar's family was informed of the incident following police confirmation of his identity. Authorities at the Yeshwanthpur Traffic Police Station promptly launched an investigation and are actively searching for the bus driver involved in the incident.

This unfortunate incident adds to a concerning trend, as it marks the third fatal accident involving BMTC vehicles in Bengaluru within the past ten days. **–BMB**

PAGE 16

FASHION FLAIR: Dia Mirza reveals her go-to items for fashion shows

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Behind schedule, ahead in vision for green B'luru

Three major projects under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) await completion

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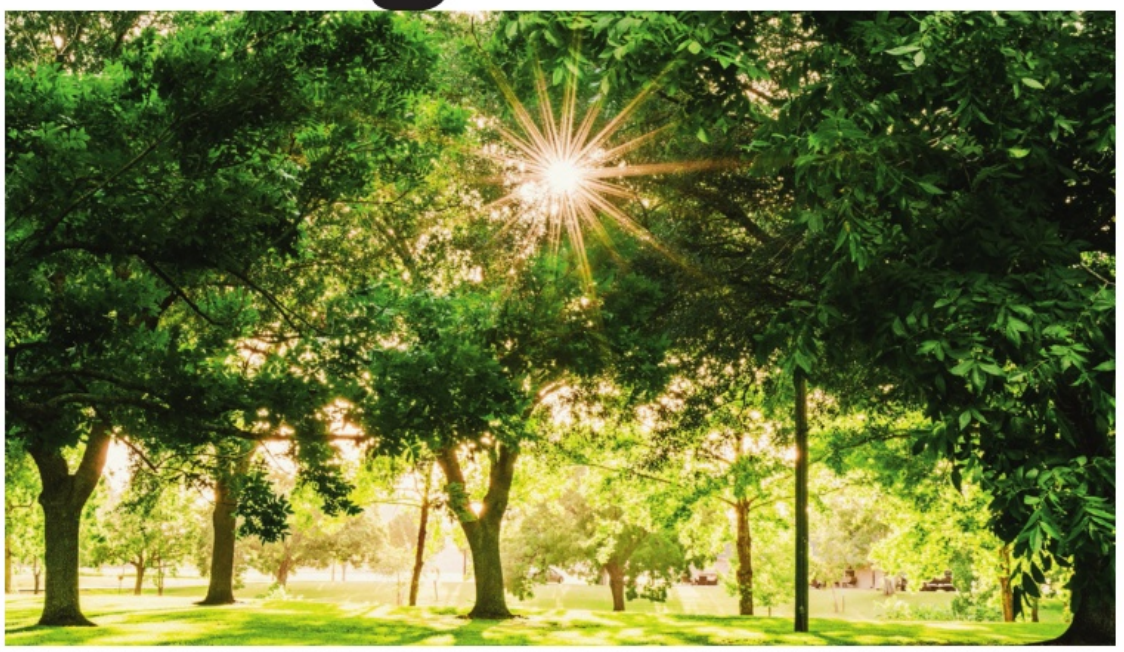

Eight out of nine park projects have been completed, and the remaining one has experienced a delay due to the change of park site location, with an expected completion by the first week of March 2024

Three major projects in the city taken up under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) are yet to be completed. One of the ongoing projects, the development of Mallasandra Gutte Park under the parks sector in Dasarahalli Zone, has seen only a 16% completion. The project aims to create an enchanting green space for the community to relish and boasts a budget of Rs 2.35 crore. The Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is making concerted efforts to expedite its completion and transform the area into a picturesque recreational spot. However, work has yet to pick up pace.

Meanwhile, the water supply project "Byatarayanapura work (110 villages)" falls under the Water Supply sector and has seen 99% progress. This project encompasses providing water supply facilities to 110 villages within the BBMP jurisdiction, and with an estimated budget of Rs 177.22 crore, it is on the verge of successful completion. The S4B replacement and rehabilitation of existing higher-diameter sewers under environment action plan - C has reached 98 percent completion. This vital initiative aims to enhance sewerage infrastructure for efficient waste management, and with a budget of Rs 99.29 crore, it has witnessed substantial progress.

Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Kaushal Kishore, said, "Under AMRUT, three projects for water supply, 13 projects for sewage and septage management, and 10 projects for park development have been sanctioned for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) with an estimated cost of Rs.992 crore." He further clarified that there is no significant delay in the water supply, sewerage, and septage management projects. Eight out of nine park projects have been completed, and the remaining one has experienced a delay due to the change of park site location, with an expected completion by the first week of March 2024.

> **"Under AMRUT, three projects for water supply, thirteen projects for sewage and septage management, and ten projects for park development have been sanctioned for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) with an estimated cost of Rs 992 crore**
> – Kaushal Kishore , Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs

The successful completion of projects like the GKVK to HBR Water Supply Work, Slum Development, various Sewage Treatment Plants, and multiple park development initiatives underscores BBMP's dedication to improving infrastructure and enhancing the quality of life for Bengaluru residents. As these projects near their completion milestones, the city looks forward to a more sustainable and vibrant future.

Lost and found at Bengaluru airport

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

deposited every month. ID cards include PAN cards, aadhaar cards, and driving licences. There have been instances when people have left jewellery and cash at Bengaluru airport," said a BIAL official.

Most items are found in the post-security check area and at the boarding gates. During the festive season, when the footfall at the airport rises, officials notice a significant increase in 'lost and found' item deposits.

The items found on the airport premises are handed over to 'lost and found' only by CISF. The items are then logged into the system with their descriptions, discovery locations, and timestamps for better tracking. They are also categorised by type, and thereafter material codes are assigned for easy storage and retrieval. These are then stored securely in monitored storerooms and storage areas.

"When a person arrives to claim a particular item, we follow a process where we compare the item's description with the passenger's or authorised claimant's account and cross-refer it with our records. We then request proof of identity, boarding pass, or e-ticket and proceed with the return of the items. A signed acknowledgment is obtained from the passenger while returning the item," informed the official.

BIAL authorities said if you are the owner of the item, you need to submit a copy of your boarding pass, details of items being claimed, and a valid government photo-ID proof for the staff to start searching in the 'lost and found' pile. If you have been authorised to claim the item, you will be required to submit a valid government photo-ID proof of the owner of the item, a valid government photo-ID proof of the individual authorised to collect the item, a copy of boarding pass, and a letter of authorisation from the owner of the item, with details of the article being claimed.

Authorities told BM that while most of the valuable items are picked back up by the owners, unclaimed items are disposed of according to the airport's standard procedures once their retention period expires. While general items, electronics, documents such as government-issued IDs, aadhaar cards, driving licences, educational documents and liquor have a retention period of 30 days; perishable goods, for instance debit or credit cards, are disposed of after 48 hours.

Power crisis in Karnataka

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Friday that the power demand has surged in the state owing to a rainfall deficit. He pointed out that the power consumption for the same period last year was around 9,000 to 10,000 MW, but this year, the electricity demand has increased to 15,000 to 16,000 MW.

The Chief Minister added that a meeting has been called to discuss the means to purchase electricity. Siddaramaiah also informed that an order was issued on Thursday directing power generators to sell power to the state government and should not sell it elsewhere.

Reacting to the BJP's allegation the Chief Minister said, "They only speak with a political intention. Do they know about the actual situation? There is a problem due to drought. However, electricity is being supplied. There is no complete load shedding". — BMB

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Footpath grief

RT Nagar

The footpath on 80 ft main road near the Post Office, behind Vinayaka temple, RT Nagar, has been dug up and left unattended by BBMP authorities for the past 10–12 months.

Display dilemma

Jayanagar

The display for bus arrival and departure timings at Jayanagar TTMC bus stop is inaccurate, leading to buses not adhering to schedule. Residents urge BMTC to ensure proper route number display.

Packed pavement

Shivaji Nagar

The footpath on Lubbay Majidi Street in Shivaji Nagar is obstructed by many displayed footwear for sale, making it impassable. Urgent attention is needed to clear the path for pedestrians.

Traffic rule tweaks planned to ease congestion

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Bengaluru south traffic division might see a new parking rule in the coming month. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (traffic), South, Shiva Prakash Devaraju, the traffic police plan to try out odd-and-even traffic rules in the region. "Vehicles can be parked on one side on odd days and other side on even days," said the DCP.

A traffic janasamparka sabhe was conducted in HSR Layout traffic police station, and the DCP south attended the meeting, on Saturday. Here residents and representatives of the welfare associations raised several points ranging from parking, pedestrian crossing, footpath encroachment, speeding, parking of school buses, parking in front of professional and commercial establishments and others.

The police have promised that in the coming days a special drive would be conducted on these issues.

The DCP assured residents that

extra force would be deployed to cater to specific problems like there will be more traffic policemen on the ground on special days near temples and on weekends near malls and shops.

He added that footpath encroachments can be taken up again in priority areas. "BBMP should take it up and we will definitely coordinate," said Devaraju.

Other problems that were highlighted were trimming of branches of avenue trees, and the police said that they would be talking to the department concerned to get it done.

Lalithamba V, a resident, who was present at the meeting opined that the police should also be focusing on penalising offenders. "If violators of rules are caught and penalised, they might stop breaking the rules," she said.

She told BM that traffic police have told the citizens that they would do whatever comes under their jurisdiction. "We discussed how it's difficult for buses to take sharp turns because other vehicles are parked on the road and we were told that the police will immediately look into the matter. Also, there are specific school locations in the area that often face traffic blockage, and a solution needs to be found."

Similar meetings were conducted in all the traffic police station limits on Saturday and all the officers, inspectors, ACPs, DCPs, and joint commissioners attended them.

Bring back the bus priority lane

BMTC says lane on ORR will save 15 minutes of commute time and cut down on fuel consumption

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If the bus priority lane is implemented on the Outer Ring Road (ORR), the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) can reduce the travel time on its buses from 70 minutes to 50-55 minutes, saving close to 20 minutes of time for commuters. "Commuters can save on 15 minutes and fuel consumption will also be reduced," a senior BMTC official told Bangalore Mirror, while adding that the road designated for the bus lane will also need to be improved simultaneously.

Since the metro section between Baiyappanahalli-KR Pura metro is now operational, the 37 feeder buses being run in order to provide last-mile links to Silk Board junction and surrounding areas will also benefit if the bus priority lane is implemented once again.

On the stretch between KR Pura to Silk Board, the BMTC runs 315 buses covering Silk Board Junction, KR Puram, Hebbal, and Goraguntepalya, making it one of the high-density routes for the corporation. Out of the 315 buses, 100 are Vajra services and 215 are ordinary buses. It is to be noted that while the Vajra services cost Rs 90 per kilometre for the corporation, they only receive Rs 65-70 in return as revenue.

How the bollards were removed

The 'priority bus lane' on ORR was introduced in 2019 after much lobbying by public transport activists, from Central Silk Board to KR Pura, spanning 17 km, at a cost of Rs 14.3 crore. However, construction of metro pillars (for the Blue line) on the median of the road required 9 metre of space, leading authorities to remove all the bollards put in place to demarcate the bus lane in mid-2022.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had installed over 25,000 fiber-reinforced bollards which were put in place on either side to reinforce the bus lane. While it had installed the bollards on the orders of the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), BBMP had pushed over the responsibility of removing them to the BMRCL.

> **"Once the Metro work is completed on the stretch and the barricades put in place are removed, the BMRCL will be restoring the priority bus lane**

In a recent panel discussion, BS Prahlad, Chief Engineer of Road Infrastructure at BBMP said that the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is committed to reinstalling the bollards.

"Once the Metro work is completed on the stretch and the barricades put in place are removed, the BMRCL will be restoring the priority bus lane," he had said.

Need of the hour

A recent report by Greenpeace India also revealed that 86% of respondents on an onboard survey of 979 bus users have expressed their support for expanding the bus lane system. According to the report, over 28% of existing bus users reported an improvement in travel time since the implementation of the bus lane.

This improvement was particularly significant for those travelling longer distances, with 54% of respondents experiencing a reduction in travel time from 60-90 minutes to 30-60 minutes. Additionally, 82% of respondents found the bus lanes to have a generally positive experience.

Attack by drunk men goes viral

A man has claimed that three people in an inebriated state hit him after an accident in Whitefield traffic police station limits.

Abhishek Chaturvedi, the victim, said he was attacked when he was on his way home from office on Friday at 8 pm.

He said three people were coming from the opposite direction, and they crashed into the victim's vehicle and ran. This incident on Balagere Road was recorded by witnesses who then put it out on social media.

The crowd was able to catch the vehicle from which the accused hit the victim but the driver ran away.

"The other 2 men were very drunk as we took our friend to hospital. Later they also ran away," said the victim's friend.

After the video gained some traction on social media, the police responded to the incident and have now called the victim to file an FIR.

4 die in crash on dangerous B'luru-Mysuru highway

Four people including two women were killed in a car accident on Bengaluru Mysuru highway. The passengers of a car that crashed in a cargo carrier van are among the deceased. It is said the car driver was speeding and trying to overtake the van but crashed into it from the back instead. The impact of the accident caused the fatalities. It is said that three others, including children who were in the car, were injured.

The accident happened close to Kempenegowdana Doddi. The accident had an impact on traffic flow for a while on the roadway. When the Ramanagara Police arrived, they cleared the road. The collision severely damaged the automobile.

Up to June 2023, there were 335 injuries and over 100 fatalities on the Bengaluru-Mysuru route, said sources.

Huge dip in organ donors

In realm of reduced organ transplants, K'taka ranks third in country; also secures third position in deceased donor transplants with 478 cases, reveals NOTTO data

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Nationally, the total number of transplants has been steadily increasing. In 2013, recorded data showed 4,990 transplants, peaking at 12,666 in 2019

Karnataka ranks third in the country for deceased organ transplants, totaling 151 cases. Telangana leads with 194, followed closely by Tamil Nadu with 156. However, Karnataka does not feature in the top five for living donor transplants, with Delhi NCR taking the lead. In 2022, Karnataka also secured the third spot in deceased donor transplants with 478 cases, trailing behind Tamil Nadu with 555 and Telangana with 524, according to data from the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO).

Nationally, the total number of transplants has been steadily increasing. In 2013, recorded data showed 4,990 transplants, peaking at 12,666 in 2019. However, the covid-19 pandemic caused a dip in 2020 to 7,443, followed by another peak in 2022 with 16,041 transplants. Living transplants, which were at 4,153 in 2013, reached a high of 13,338 in 2022. The prevalence of domino liver transplants, which was nonexistent until 2015, has now reached nine.

The trend in organ transplants reveals remarkable growth. For example, heart transplants grew from just 30 cases in 2013 to 243 in 2022 across the country. Lung transplants, which were at 23 in 2013, peaked at 191 in 2018 and remained at 144 in 2022. Pancreas transplants, numbering only two in 2013, increased to 26 in 2022. Kidney transplants, starting at zero in 2013, reached 22 in 2022, while small bowel transplants, also starting at zero in 2013, reached a high of seven in 2022 and three in 2022. Globally, the USA leads in transplant numbers, followed by China, India, Brazil, and France.

Regarding organ donation, Jeevasarthakathe (Transplant Authority of Karnataka) has been a registered society since 2017. It promotes organ donation and coordinates deceased donor transplantation in the state of Karnataka. Jeevasarthakathe, now recognised as the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) in 2022, plays a vital role in maintaining the donor registry and coordinating deceased donor donations. Transplant coordinators work with deceased donors at retrieval centres, recipients at respective hospitals, cross-match facilities, police personnel, and airport authorities.

> **"Despite the progress, the rate of organ donations in India remains low, with only 0.08 per million population, compared to Spain's population** – An official

An official said, "Despite the progress, the rate of organ donations in India remains low, with only 0.08 per million population, compared to Spain's 40 per million population. A single donor can potentially save up to eight lives by donating organs such as the heart, kidneys, liver, pancreas, small intestines, and lungs. Tissue donation can also positively impact over 50 people through contributions such as skin, bones, ligaments, heart valves, and corneas."

Chronic kidney disease affects 800 per million of the population, with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) impacting 150–200 people per million. Around 3,00,000 individuals are awaiting kidney transplants, but only 10,000 receive one annually. Approximately 1,00,000 patients are in need of liver transplants, but less than 3% receive this life-saving procedure.

In the case of heart transplants, nearly 50,000 patients require one, but only a minority are fortunate enough to receive a heart transplant, the official added.

IN BRIEF

52% of cervical cancer patients survive

Roughly 52 per cent of cervical cancer cases diagnosed between 2012 and 2015 survived, scientists have found after analysing data from Population Based Cancer Registries (PBCRs) across India.

Ahmedabad's urban PBCR had a higher survival rate of 61.5 per cent followed by Thiruvananthapuram (58.8 per cent) and Kollam (56.1 per cent). Tripura had the lowest survival rate of 31.6 per cent, the researchers said in their study published in the journal The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia. A total of 5,591 cervical cancer cases from 11 PBCRs diagnosed between 2012 and 2015 were studied. The research team included scientists from National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research, the Indian Council of Medical Research, Bengaluru, and other Indian institutes. – PTI

College student gang-raped

In a shocking incident, a college student was kidnapped and gang-raped in Ballary district, police said on Saturday. According to the police, the victim, a B Com student, has filed a complaint with Ballary Woman's Police Station against four persons, based on which the police have launched a hunt for the accused.

One of the accused, claiming to be her brother, called the woman out of the class while she was taking an exam. They then forced her into an auto and took her to a hotel room in Sanapura in Koppal district. There, they forced her to drink beer laced with a drug. As the woman lost consciousness, the accused gang-raped her. On regaining consciousness, the survivor lodged a complaint against Naveen, Saqeeb, Tanu, and another person. All the accused are residents of Kaul Bazar in Ballary. – IANS

Contractors' Association demands payment of dues

Contractors meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah; CM promises clearance of pending bills within this year

Contractors Association of Karnataka President Kempanna met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at his home office in Bengaluru on Saturday. Kempanna demanded that the pending bills of contractors be cleared in 30 days; otherwise, the contractors would go on strike. Contractor Association President Kempanna said, "Contractors' bills were pending for over 5–6 months; regarding this issue, we just had a meeting with the CM. He has promised to release the pending bills as soon as possible. Officers, engineers, and BBMP commissioners are also demanding money, but we didn't get any.

The CM has said that he will meet the officers. He has promised that within this year, the pending bills will be cleared. We also demanded to clear 50 per cent of the bill this month, to which the CM has agreed." On Friday, during an IT raid on a contractor's house in Karnataka, 42 crores of unaccounted money were found. IT officials seized cash amounting to Rs 42 crore from a property allegedly linked to contractor R Ambikapathy.

Ambikapathy is the vice president of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Contractors' Association and has been a prominent voice among the contractors association that accused the then BJP government of asking for 40% commission from civil contractors. Former Deputy Chief Minister and BJP MLA CN Ashwath Narayan said on Friday that the Congress was using Karnataka as an ATM and using the money collected from contractors in five poll-bound states.

MLA CN Aswath Narayan, said, "Rs 42 crore of unaccounted money was found with a contractor yesterday during an IT raid. The same contractor was blaming our government for corruption and alleging the BJP was a 40 per cent commissioned government. The present government has made this state an ATM. It is preparing to collect money from contractors and spend it for Congress in five state elections. IT raided the house of the person who accused us when our government fell. Now we know that this person is a Congress agent."

The JDs also echoed its new ally, the BJP, alleging that Congress was synonymous with corruption.

"Who owns the money found in the contractor's house during the IT raid? On whose shoulders is the money of sin collected? These questions need answers. It is the same story from the beginning. If Congress comes to power in the state, it will be a feast for the high command. The same thing is still happening. Karnataka has been earmarked for the five-state elections.

> **"Contractors' bills were pending for over 5-6 months; regarding this issue, we just had a meeting with the CM** – Kempanna, President, Contractor Association

The Congress is being blamed for the mistake of voting. This is the karma of the Kannadigas," said former Karnataka Chief Minister and JDs leader HD Kumaraswamy. – ANI

Politics plays out

The IT raids in the city, which unearthed Rs 42 crore in cash from a contractor's house, have led to a war of words between the ruling Congress and the opposition party in the state.

Former Karnataka CM HD Kumaraswamy claimed that the cash was collected from contractors as "commission" immediately after the release of Rs 650 crore pending dues to them. He also said that the seized money was headed to poll-bound Telangana. "The BBMP has released Rs 650 crore in pending dues for select contractors. Soon after the release of this amount, Rs 42 crore in cash was seized by the IT department. This proves that the money was collected as a commission," he said.

Reacting to this, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said, "No IT raid will take place without a political motive. Not only in our state, but the IT raids are being conducted with a political motive in other states as well. I do not have knowledge about money being collected allegedly from contractors after clearing their dues was seized from Ambikapathy by IT sleuths in Bengaluru." – BMB

THE SUNDAY READ

Namma Metro, please mind these gaps

Put up a parking lot

50% of stations don't have parking lots. That along with feeder service paucity is making metro rides unattractive for those who have no last-mile connectivity option

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

With seamless connectivity between KR Puram and Baiyapanahalli, the purple line Metro has become the longest in the city, spanning 43.49 km (overall length for now is 73.81 km including green line).

The Metro is setting a new record with 7 lakh riders using it daily. However, many are posting queries on social media, expressing their readiness to shift to the Metro but seeking information on parking facilities for their vehicles. And this is the bitter reality -- only half of the operational Metro stations offer parking lots currently. Experts suggest that opening parking lots at all Metro stations could further boost ridership.

The purple line has 37 stations, while the green line has 29. Out of the total 66, only 33 have parking facilities. Among those with parking, some have limited space. On the purple line, only 14 stations offer parking, with Baiyappanahalli having the best facility—13,400 square metres accommodating 715 two-wheelers and 432 cars. Nayanahalli station has the second-largest parking lot at 11,499 square metres, with space for 1,700 two-wheelers, 240 cars, and 10 LCVs. RV Road station spans 7,260 square metres with room for 230 two-wheelers and 185 cars.

Majestic City station offers parking across 6,500 square metres, accommodating 960 two-wheelers and 159 cars. Mahalakshmi station has a parking space of 3,899 square metres, with room for 755 two-wheelers, 82 cars, and nine LCVs. The parking fees for two-wheelers are Rs 15 for the first four hours and an additional Rs 45 for subsequent hours. The daily parking fee is Rs 30. For cars, it's Rs 30 for the first four hours, with an additional Rs 10 per subsequent hour, and a day pass is Rs 60. Cyclists pay Rs 10 per hour.

However, commuters argue that the existing parking space is insufficient. For instance, at the Indiranagar Metro station, which sees around 14,000 commuters daily, there's parking space for just 437 square metres, accommodating only 155 two-wheelers.

Suneeta Rao, a regular commuter, said, "The success of the Metro depends on last-mile connectivity. The main objective is for people to abandon their personal vehicles and opt for mass transport. Many Metro users park their vehicles at the nearest stations. If parking space is lacking, often more expensive modes of transport like autos or cabs become necessary."

Meanwhile, an interesting trend in Bengaluru is the emergence of private parking lots near Metro stations. Shiva Moorthy, a regular Metro user, added, "Private parking lots near Dasarahalli and Nagasandra Metro stations offer competitive prices to attract more customers. Having more parking lots is better for Metro commuters."

> **The success of the Metro depends on last-mile connectivity. The main aim is to encourage people to leave personal vehicles and opt for mass transport**
> –Suneeta Rao, Metro user

For a few feeders more

Just 20 stations serviced by feeder services

| Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Only nearly 30 per cent of operational metro stations are serviced by feeder services. Of the 66 stations operational, only 20 have feeder services.

The recent metro feeder buses from KR Puram metro station and ORR have been garnering a good response among metro users. The multimodal transport method has proven to be a booster for public transport, traffic decongestion and reducing carbon emissions. But, since it began operations in 2011, just 20 stations have got feeder services.

BMRCL has an estimated 73.81 km track running across Bengaluru with 57 elevated stations,eight underground stations and one at-grade station.

Currently, BMTC runs 114 schedules and 1,710 trips as metro feeder buses. Buses run through KR Puram Metro Station, SMV Railway Station, ITPL, Kadugodi, Indiranagar, Baiyappanahalli, Cubbon Park, Attigupe, Mysore Road, Rajarajeshwari, Jayanagara, RV Road, Jalahalli, Dasarahalli, Vajarahalli, Silk Institute, Jnanabharathi, Kengeri bus terminal, Nayandanahalli, and Vijayanagara metro stations. BMTC runs 26 metro feeders across different stations.

Recently, BMTC had announced the launch of 37 buses to connect the KR Puram station and ORR.

"There are feeder buses but existing bus services act like metro feeders. Public has to take advantage of the services. Eventually, metro feeders should cover all stations. Bengaluru is still getting used to the extended metro line. The integration is not complete throughout. For example, Kundalahalli metro station does not have a bus stop. The BMLTA should work on integrating different modes. Buses cannot work like two-wheelers but metro feeders can take advantage of bus lanes," said Srinivas Alavilli, a bus activist.

Another activist questioned if BMTC has diverted buses from other routes to serve as feeders. "Where are these feeder buses coming from? If they have been pulled out of some other schedules, it would inconvenience bus users. We are being told that metro feeders are the solution but the challenge lies in increasing the number of buses. Number of buses needs to be increased faster than the rate of population growth in the city," said Ashwin Mahesh, a bus activist.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

MIGHTY WINGS
A kite flying over a building

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Muskan Poddar**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

Harohalli Srinivasaiah Doreswamy was a popular activist who participated in the Indian Independence movement. He was born in Harohalli village in Mysuru. After completing his primary education, he came to Bengaluru for higher education. He became a centenarian in 2018. He was also a journalist. During the British period, he ran publications like Sahitya Mandira and Pauravani. He also played a key role in the unification of Karnataka. He also participated in agitations against the encroachment of water bodies in the state. He was also part of protests in 2019–20 in the country.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR
9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

Seal the danger: Full coverage needed

Residents on D'Souza Road point out gaps in slabs covering drains; say exposed condition of drains is safety hazard

Drains with slabs that only partially cover them pose danger for pedestrians on D'Souza Road. Residents allege that despite repeated complaints to Bangalore Bruhat Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), there has been no response. The problematic drain, located on the road, has been a growing cause of concern among locals.

Moreover, the residents also allege that the spot has been filled with weeds and garbage has accumulated in the area. A BM reader said, "The risk of accidents, particularly in the monsoon season like right now, when visibility is reduced and the chances of slips and falls increase, remains a pressing issue."

Sanjay Khosla, a resident of the area, said, "As a resident, I believe that the city's structural welfare should be of importance; it has always been like this: BBMP comes digging up for their needs and then never really gets back to the ground." Residents say that the exposed condition of drains is not only a safety hazard but also raises questions about the city's infrastructure maintenance.

Another resident said, "The drains are covered with stone slabs mainly for two reasons. Firstly, the debris should not fall into the drains so that it hinders the water flow. Secondly, the cover also acts as a protective layer so that no one falls into it. However, it is the duty of the BBMP to ensure that the drains are covered completely and there are no gaps."

Even if the BBMP takes up desilting work periodically, it should ensure that the entire drain is covered by slabs. Residents hope that the BBMP works as per the deadline and fixes the issue on a priority basis, they added.

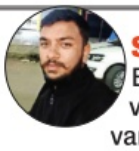
— Aastha Negi

Residents say that the problematic drain, located on D'Souza Road has been a growing cause of concern among them

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

What's your favourite local cuisine or restaurant in Bengaluru? Name some dishes people must try here.



Sachin Sampath, BM Reader
Bengaluru is known for serving various kinds of foods. You can find varieties here and enjoy them with your friends and families. Grill Biryanis in Jalahalli Cross is amazing! People should try their grilled chicken.

Manjunath BN, BM Reader
There are many options when it comes to dishes in Bengaluru. My favourite restaurant is Andhra Mess on 5th Cross Road, Ashok Nagar, Hanumanthanagar. Ragi balls and chicken gravy are the best.

Rohith C, BM Reader
You can visit many restaurants in the city. However, my favourite restaurant is obviously Meghana's best biryani out there. People must try their kalmi kebab, which is hands down one of the best dishes.

Akshay Rajesh, BM Reader
The local cuisine that I like is South Indian breakfast; the restaurant that comes to mind is CTR's iconic masala dose and Mangalore goli bajji.

Amritha Gaikwad, BM Reader
Mangalore Sea Palate for the best neer dosa and the fish, of course! I've grown up in Mangaluru for quite a bit, and that's my comfort food. So it's a quick stop when I miss home or when I feel low. You should try their fish thali; in my opinion, all their thalis and combos are amazing, and Anjal rava fry.

Samarth Raj, BM Reader
Masala dosa at Vidyarthi Bhavan in Gandhi Bazaar is my favourite. I like the masala dosa because of its golden colour and crispness. Visitors can also try the chow chow bath here.

SPEAK TO US

How would you rate the public transportation system in Bengaluru?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Brainwave is all art

Engineering course has students use brainwaves to create performing art

After a serious injury in 2016, I started drawing and painting during my recovery as a form of self-taught art therapy. I found the experience transformative. During my recovery, I rediscovered Pablo Picasso's artwork and the geometry of his cubism, which inspired my early paintings.

As making art became part of my life, a desire grew to share this transformative experience with my engineering students. I wanted them to learn how to see science and engineering from a broader perspective – as an artist.

This led to the idea for, and development of, a course on arts and geometry in collaboration with professional artists of the Atlanta community. The play "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," where comedian Steve Martin imagined a conversation in a Parisian cafe between Picasso and Albert Einstein, helped inspire the course. So did a book by history and philosophy of science professor Arthur Miller, "Einstein, Picasso: Space, Time and the Beauty That Causes Havoc."

What does the course explore?

The course introduces engineering students to the geometry of manifolds – that is, cylinders, spheres or hyperboloids, and more complex surfaces, like a crumpled piece of paper or a rippled kale leaf. It then looks at how these concepts influenced modern arts and sciences: Picasso's cubism and Einstein's relativity. Cubism combines many angles to create a new way of seeing things, whereas Einstein's theory changes how we think about time, which isn't separate from the space around us – they are intertwined.

The course is integrated with weekly art labs taught over the years by Atlanta professional artists who teach students the fundamentals of several art mediums: pencil and charcoal drawing, printmaking, oil painting and sculptures.

We also teach students how to create performing art using their brainwaves. Brainwaves are produced when we are engaged in any activity. They can be measured by electroencephalography – or EEG – headsets.

Students learn to create auditory or dynamic visual representations of our mind activity when we think, reason, create, dance or relax doing nothing. For example, brainwaves produced by a dancer can be transformed into musical sounds, an auditory representation of the dancer's movements. Similarly, the brainwaves of an artist making a painting, or those of a mathematician deriving an equation, can be transformed into music that mirrors the act of creating art or math.

The same brain waves can power on or off a set of pumps that produce water jets in a tank, a system designed by professor Chris Lai and students Muhammad Mustafa and Alexander Zimmer. These jets interact among themselves to produce a disordered turbulent flow in the water tank. The shape and motion of vortices generated by turbulence are a dynamic visualization of the human mind's activity.

Why is this course relevant now?

Civil engineering can be explained and taught using the physics and mathematics of Isaac Newton and Gottfried Leibniz, from the 17th century: the concepts of derivatives and force being proportional to acceleration.

In our fast-changing world, there are exciting discoveries happening in science and technology, like in the understanding of the universe, artificial intelligence and quantum computing. To prepare for the challenges, engineering students should be familiar with special mathematical tools developed by 20th-century geniuses such as Elie Cartan and Einstein. Such tools empower students to gain insights such as uncovering hidden geometric structures of complex physical systems or of large amounts of data. Normally, engineering classes don't teach these topics.

Critical lesson

Students realise the mental health benefits of practicing arts. They feel more self-confident and have more self-esteem because they have created something.

Performing art live empowers students' self-expression. By not relying on memorization, these performances stimulate spontaneous creativity, improvisation and free thinking.

What students will be prepared for?

The course will prepare students to think like an artist, using abstraction, imagination and fluid thinking. They will tackle with confidence the new engineering quests and challenges of the 21st century. The challenges encompass sustainable urban and ocean infrastructure design for extreme weather, global warming mitigation, clean water and energy, quantum computing, cybersecurity and ethical use of AI.

Francesco Fedele, Georgia Institute of Technology, Uncommon Courses, a series in The Conversation

Hunt for gold and diamond on asteroid

NASA's Psyche mission, aiming to explore an asteroid rich in gold, diamond and platinum, is all set to launch on Friday, after weather played spoilsport an earlier launch on Thursday.

The Psyche spacecraft is expected to lift off atop a Falcon Heavy rocket on October 13 at 10.19 a.m. EDT (7.49 p.m. IST). It will travel on a journey of nearly six years and about 3.6 billion kilometres to the asteroid by the same name orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter to study its composition.

According to a recent study, published in the Planetary Science Journal, asteroid 16 Psyche -- one of the most massive objects in the main asteroid belt orbiting and a main target of the mission -- could be made entirely of metal. Its metal is worth an estimated $10,000 quadrillion.

"We've seen meteorites that are mostly metal, but Psyche could be unique in that it might be an asteroid that is totally made of iron and nickel," said lead author Tracy Becker of the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) in a statement.

The mission was earlier on Thursday delayed by weather. The mission officials said that the orbiter's solar arrays are folded and stowed for launch. All systems have been tested and retested many times, along with the payload of three science instruments.

"If all goes as planned, asteroid Psyche's gravity will capture the spacecraft in late July 2029, and Psyche will begin its prime mission

"The team has worked tirelessly to prepare the spacecraft for its journey to a one-of-a-kind asteroid," said Henry Stone, Psyche's project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California, in a statement.

"All spacecraft systems, science instruments, and software have been integrated and extensively tested, and the spacecraft is fully configured for flight. We look forward to the launch and -- more importantly -- to accomplishing the mission's objectives, marking yet another historic voyage of scientific discovery." **–IANS**

BITS & BYTES

AI BUG BOUNTY

Microsoft has announced an AI bug bounty programme featuring the AI-powered Bing experience as the first in-scope product, with awards up to $15,000. The programme is to encourage researchers around the world to find vulnerabilities within the Bing chatbot and AI integrations.

"The bounty programme invites security researchers to discover vulnerabilities in the new, innovative, AI-powered Bing experience. Qualified submissions are eligible for bounty rewards from $2,000 to $15,000," Microsoft explains on the AI bounty programme's website. **IANS**

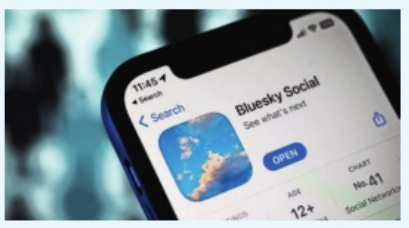
VETTING FEATURE ON X

Elon Musk-run X has adopted a new member vetting feature, which is currently used across many Facebook Groups to vet members before joining.

The company has announced that admins of private Communities on X will now need members to answer a question as well as agree to the group's guidelines when requesting to join.

"Gatekeeping allowed - admins of private communities can now require people to answer a question first before being able to join," X said on Friday. This new feature will allow admins and moderators to screen out unwanted invaders and could potentially allow admins to evaluate Communities on X and grant exclusive status to select members. **IANS**

WIDE BLUESKY



As Meta-owned Threads decides not to push news on its platform, Jack Dorsey-backed social media network Bluesky, which has reached 1.5 million users, has invited journalists and news organisations to come and self-verify themselves by setting their website directly. The company said its user base includes people who follow political news, sports, entertainment and more. "Join us in our early days as we grow to 10 million users. Each organisation now manages verifications for their own journalists too. For example, a newsroom can verify an affiliated journalist through a subdomain like @name.newsroom.com," the social network said in a statement. **IANS**

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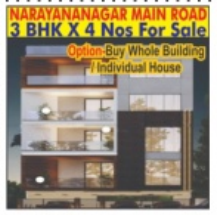

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India hand Pakistan 7-wicket rout

As bowlers set up ground, skipper Rohit finishes off one-sided contest

Skipper Rohit Sharma's 86 and an inspired bowling display helped India hammer Pakistan by seven wickets in their high-profile World Cup clash at the 1,32,000-capacity Ahmedabad stadium on Saturday. India bowled out Pakistan for 191 after their rivals collapsed from 155-2.

India then overhauled the total with 117 balls to spare to extend their unbeaten streak against their neighbours to eight in the 50-over showpiece tournament. Rohit stood out in his 63-ball knock laced with six fours and six sixes to keep India, who began the event as favourites to win the title, unbeaten in their three matches in this edition.

Pakistan now have two wins and one defeat in the 10-nation tournament. "There is no doubt about it that the bowlers set up the game for us again today. It was a great effort," said Rohit. "I don't think it was a 190 pitch. At one stage we were looking at 270-280 but they came back and showed grit and that says a lot about the guys." Pakistan counterpart Babar Azam admitted his middle order and opening bowlers let him down.

Rohit Sharma led from the front in Saturday's match

"We had a collapse in the middle order," he said. "The way we started, we were targeting 280 or 290 but the collapse cost us so our total is not good. "With the new ball, we were not up to the mark." Rohit hit the ball to all parts of the ground with his delightful flicks and pulls to entertain an almost all-Indian crowd at the world's biggest cricket stadium after Pakistan fans were effectively banned from attending. India lost Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli -- both for 16 -- before Rohit and Shreyas Iyer, who hit the winning four to reach 53, put on 77 runs for the third wicket and placed India comfortably on course for victory.

Rohit stood out in his 63-ball knock laced with six fours and six sixes to keep India that began the event as favourites unbeaten

Rohit fell attempting another hit off Shaheen Shah Afridi to get caught at mid-wicket, but Iyer and KL Rahul took the team home with ease. The bowlers set up victory after India elected to field and Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah, Hardik Pandya, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja took two wickets each.

Pakistan were bowled out in 42.5 overs, losing eight wickets for 36 runs in 80 balls. The total was Pakistan's third lowest against India in the World Cup after their 173 in Sydney (1992) and 180 at Manchester (1999).

Pakistan started strongly but lost their openers before skipper Babar Azam (50) and Mohammad Rizwan (49) attempted to rebuild and hit back in their stand of 82.

Azam reached his fifty off 57 balls with a boundary but fell in the next over, bowled by Siraj as the crowd roared to see the back of the world's number one ODI batsman.

Kuldeep Yadav soon struck twice in an over to send back the left-handed Saud Shakeel and Iftikhar Ahmed, bowled around the legs for four after the ball deflected off the batsman's gloves. Bumrah denied Rizwan his fifty with a slower-off cutter that rattled the stumps as Pakistan slipped to 168-6. Bumrah, playing in front of his home crowd, had a spring in his step and struck again in the next over to get Shadab Khan out for two before Pandya and Jadeja combined to wrap up the tail.

"It felt good," said man of the match Bumrah who had figures of 2-19 off seven overs. "You try to analyse the wicket as soon as possible so when we started bowling, we came to know that the wicket was on the slower side and a hard length would make run-scoring more difficult."

The hotly-anticipated match raised enormous interest with city hotels booked and desperate fans even booking full-body check-ups in local hospitals to be sure of a place to sleep. A prominent hotel in the city usually charges 6,000 rupees ($72) for a deluxe room but on Friday, Saturday and Sunday the price for a day had been hiked to 70,000 rupees ($841). Only a trickle of Pakistanis, many expatriates, made it to the game after fans from across the border endured visa delays. — AFP

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Modi confirms 2036 Olympics bid

#MUMBAI

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi confirmed Saturday that his country would bid to host the 2036 Summer Olympics and become just the fourth Asian nation to stage the Games.

The world's most populous country is this weekend holding a session of the International Olympic Committee's executive board, which has already resolved to include cricket -- India's most popular sport -- at the 2028 Games in Los Angeles.

Modi made the bid announcement while formally opening the meeting after months of hints from members of his government, saying it was the "dream and aspiration" of India's 1.4 billion people.

"India will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to organise the 2036 Olympics," he said.

Modi did not mention which city would apply to host the Olympics.

But media reports have speculated that Ahmedabad, capital of his home state of Gujarat, was the most likely city to bid.

Ahmedabad is home to Narendra Modi Stadium, named for the prime minister and with 132,000 seats, the world's largest sporting venue by capacity.

The formal announcement comes just two months after sports minister Anurag Thakur said India was now home to "top global infrastructure" that left it ready to stage the Olympics.

PM makes bid announcement official

"There should be no question about India's competence," The Hindu newspaper quoted Thakur as saying.

India this year held the presidency of the G20 and was roundly praised for its smooth hosting of the world's most powerful leaders.

Modi said Saturday that the G20 summit's success was proof that the country was ready to put on "mega global events".

But India has struggled to stage large-scale sporting competitions in the past.

New Delhi's hosting of the Commonwealth Games in 2010 was marked by construction delays, substandard infrastructure and accusations of financial mismanagement and corruption.

India is currently hosting the Cricket World Cup, and was criticised for a delay in announcing the tournament fixture until three months before it began.

The schedule was suddenly overhauled a few weeks after it was first published with some of the biggest matches rescheduled.

Fans have meanwhile complained about online ticketing crashes, and matches not featuring the hosts have been sparsely attended.

Modi's announcement came just moments after India beat Pakistan in the World Cup's most anticipated fixture.

Turkey, Indonesia, Mexico and Poland are so far the only other countries committed to bidding for 2036. -AFP

HEALTH TIP: Nuts are known to be high in healthy fats, and are best known for alternatives in protein and fibre

To start the day with green tea, means to set the tone and pace of the day from a very calming note

BangaloreMirror | 13
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An itching paradox

Molecule that triggers the urge to scratch also turns down inflammation in the skin

Itching can be uncomfortable, but it's a normal part of your skin's immune response to external threats. When you're itching from an encounter with poison ivy or mosquitoes, consider that your urge to scratch may have evolved to get you to swat away disease-carrying pests.

However, for many people who suffer from chronic skin diseases like eczema, the sensation of itch can fuel a vicious cycle of scratching that interrupts sleep, reduces productivity and prevents them from enjoying daily life. This cycle is caused by sensory neurons and skin immune cells working together to promote itching and skin inflammation.

But, paradoxically, some of the mechanisms behind this feedback loop also stop inflammation from getting worse. In our newly published research, my team of immunologists and neuroscientists and I discovered that a specific type of itch-sensing neuron can push back on the itch-scratch-inflammation cycle in the presence of a small protein. This protein, called interleukin-31, or IL-31, is typically involved in triggering itching.

This negative feedback loop – like the vicious cycle – is only possible because the itch-sensing nerve endings in your skin are closely intertwined with the millions of cells that make up your skin's immune system.

An itchy molecule

The protein IL-31 is key to the connection between the nervous and immune systems. This molecule is produced by some immune cells, and like other members of this molecule family, it specializes in helping immune cells communicate with each other.

IL-31 is rarely present in the skin or blood of people who don't have a history of eczema, allergies, asthma or related conditions. But those with conditions like eczema that cause chronic itch have significantly increased skin production of IL-31. There is strong evidence that IL-31 is one of a small set of proteins that immune cells produce that can bind directly to sensory neurons and trigger itching. Small amounts of purified IL-31 injected directly into skin or spinal fluid leads to impressively rapid-onset itching and scratching.

However, when my colleagues and I induced rashes in mice by exposing them to dust mites, we found that itch-sensing neurons turned down the dial on inflammation at the site of itching instead of promoting it. They did so by secreting small molecules called neuropeptides that, in this context, directed immune cells to respond less enthusiastically. In sum, we had discovered an inverse relationship between itching and skin inflammation, tethered by a single molecule.

> **Vicious cycle of scratching is caused by sensory neurons and skin immune cells working together to promote itching and skin inflammation**

But if IL-31 triggers itching, which can worsen inflammation by making patients scratch their skin, how does it reduce inflammation?

We found the answer to this paradox in a little-known function of sensory neurons called neurogenic inflammation. This nerve reflex triggers sensory neurons to release various signaling molecules directly into tissues, including specific neuropeptides that promote signs of inflammation like increased blood flow to the skin. Neurogenic inflammation acts within the same nerves that transmit sensory information like itch, pain, touch and temperature, but differs by the path it takes: away from the brain rather than toward it.

We discovered that IL-31 can induce neurogenic inflammation, mapping a direct pathway going from IL-31 through sensory neurons to repress immune cells in the skin. When we engineered mice to be unresponsive to IL-31, we similarly found that they had more activated skin immune cells that produced more inflammation. This means the net effect of IL-31 is to blunt overall inflammation.

IL-31 as potential treatment

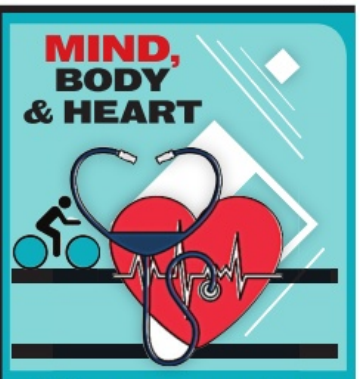
Our study shows that IL-31 causes sensory neurons in the skin to perform two very different functions: They signal inward to the spinal cord and brain to stimulate an itching sensation that typically leads to more inflammation, but they also signal back out to the skin and quell inflammation by inhibiting certain immune cells.

Although paradoxical, this makes evolutionary sense. Scratching an itch can feel very satisfying but doesn't have much utility in the modern world where we're more likely to suffer from compulsive scratching than encounter stinging nettles. In contrast, unchecked inflammation underlies many chronic autoimmune diseases. Therefore, turning off an immune response in inflamed tissue can be as important as turning it on.

Our discoveries raise important questions about the implications of modifying IL-31 to treat different diseases. For one, it isn't clear how IL-31-sensing neurons interface with other neuronal circuits that also regulate skin inflammation. Furthermore, some patients have higher levels of allergic proteins in their blood or develop asthma flares when taking existing drugs that target IL-31. IL-31 is also found in some lung and gut cells – how and why would an itch-inducing molecule be present in internal organs?

Anatomical niches where sensory neurons and immune cells converge are present throughout the human body. If an itchy molecule like IL-31 can use neuronal circuitry to dampen an immune response in the skin, similar molecules like those used in migraine drugs could be repurposed to treat skin conditions, too.

Marlys Fassett, University of California, The Conversation



All you need to know about...

Delayed bedtimes

90-minute damage
Delaying bedtime by just 90 minutes each night damages cells that line the blood vessels, supporting the hypothesis that poor sleep is linked to heart health, a study among women participants has revealed.

Mild chronic sleep deficit
A mild chronic sleep deficit may heighten the risk of developing heart disease later in life.
Surveys of thousands of people have found that people who report mild but chronic sleep deficits have more heart disease later in life than people who get adequate sleep.

Inflamed cells
A new Columbia University's study of women, published in the journal Scientific Reports, now shows what's happening in the body during chronic mild sleep deprivation.
After just six weeks of shortened sleep, the study found, the cells that line our blood vessels are flooded by damaging oxidants. And unlike well-rested cells, sleep-restricted cells fail to activate antioxidant responses to clear the destructive molecules.
The result: cells that are inflamed and dysfunctional, an early step in the development of cardiovascular disease.

First direct evidence
"This is some of the first direct evidence to show that mild chronic sleep deficits cause heart disease," says study leader Sanja Jelic, director of the Center for Sleep Medicine at Columbia. The researchers screened nearly 1,000 women for the study, enrolling 35 healthy women who normally sleep seven to eight hours each night who could complete the 12-week study.

Take care
"People who are young and healthy need to know that if they keep getting less sleep than that, they're aggravating their cardiovascular risk." –IANS

MIRRORLIGHTS

Plant-derived nutrients can have impact on gut, brain: Study

Prebiotics are chemicals that aid in the colonisation of beneficial bacteria in the stomach. These indigestible dietary fibres are found non many plant-based foods, including onions, leeks, artichokes, wheat, bananas, and in high amounts in chicory root. They encourage the growth and activity of beneficial gut bacteria, which improves gut health.

Researchers are now investigating whether some prebiotics can influence brain function by enhancing communication between the gut flora and the brain.

According to the interventional study headed by the University of Leipzig Medical Centre, high-dose dietary prebiotics reduce reward-related brain activation in response to high-calorie meal stimuli.

"The results suggest a potential link between gut health and brain function, in this case, food decision-making," said PD Dr Veronica Witte, co-author of the study and a scientist at the University of Leipzig Medical Center.

Young to middle-aged adults

with overweight were selected for the study who followed an omnivorous, Western diet. The 59 volunteers consumed 30 grams of inulin, a prebiotic from chicory root, daily for 14 days.

During functional MRI imaging, participants were shown pictures of food and asked how much they desired to eat the meals depicted. Following the MRI experiment, they were provided with their highest-rated dish and asked to consume it.

The MRI examination was repeated at four time points, before and after the prebiotic administration and before and after a placebo phase in which the participants were given a preparation with identical energy density but without prebiotics. –ANI

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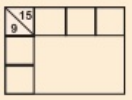
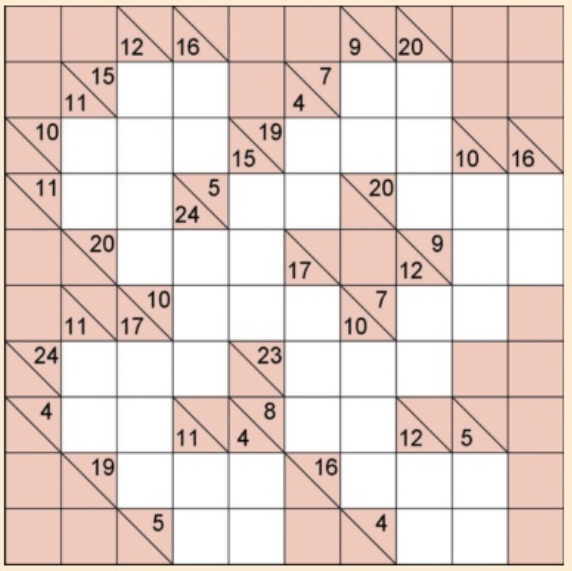


Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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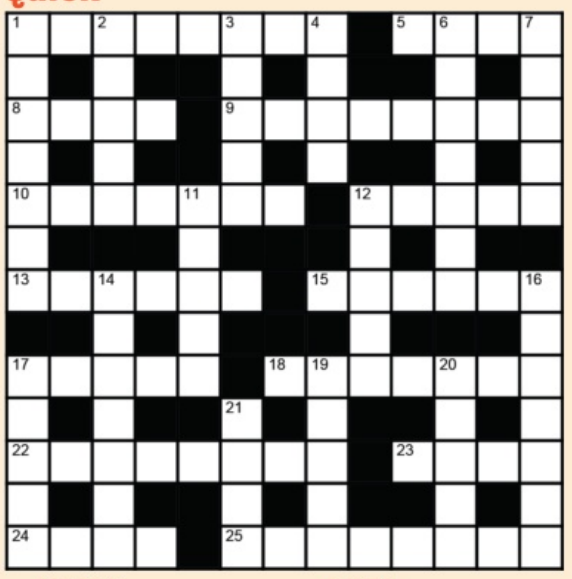

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1 Sample (8)
5 Box lightly (4)
8 Occurring in fact (4)
9 Riding breeches (8)
10 Optimistic, as in ____ thinking? (7)
12 Heart, liver etc. (5)
13 Cause to lie (6)
15 Trudge through mud, etc., eat greedily (6)
17 Does not sink? (5)
18 Zeppelin (7)
22 Scrawls on walls (8)
23 Disturbance (4)
24 Tall plant (4)
25 Deadpool star Ryan ___ (8)

DOWN

1 Spreads (7)
2 School tests (5)
3 Laila's counterpart (5)
4 Meeting point (4)
6 Advertised (7)
7 Gone up (5)
11 Bifurcates (5)
12 External (5)
14 Turn "a bridge" around to get a popular road (7)
16 Specialists (7)
17 Faculty of vision (5)
19 In a frigid manner (5)
20 Monopoly piece (5)
21 Layer (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: C EQUALS O

OCC IXWJ CE NA XHV WCO YRQRWS CNH KHVXIA ZVGXNAV DV XHV YRQRWS CNH EVXHA.

Linemaro

You make my data circuits skip a beat

Mindchow

Find a place inside where there's joy, and the joy will burn out the pain

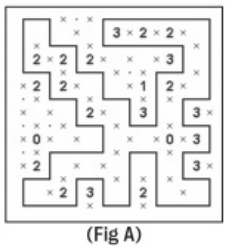
Joke of the day

Experience is what you get when you don't get what you wanted

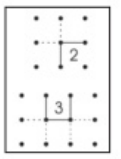
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

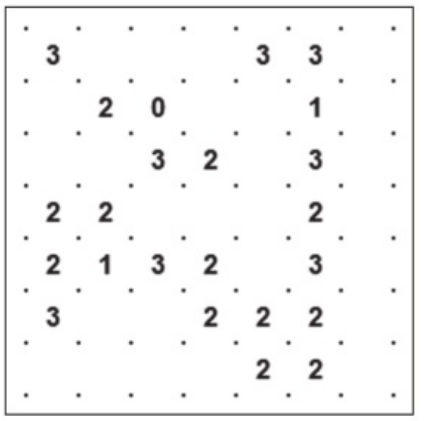


(Fig B) Not Allowed

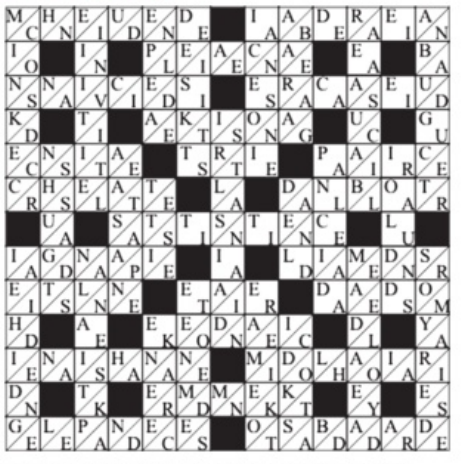
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



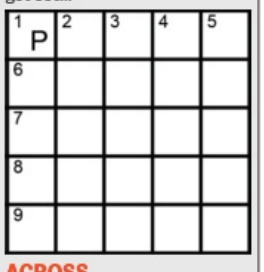
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

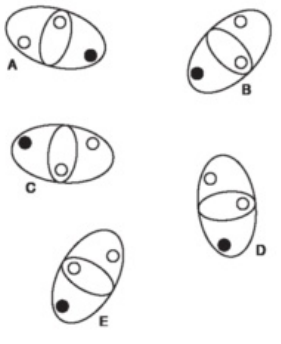
1 As apt; 6 Ulnar;
7 Rue at; 8 I'm FAA;
9 Lubes

DOWN

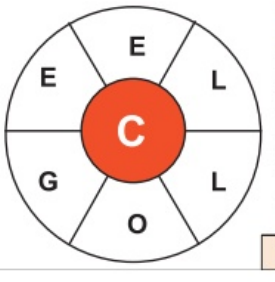
1 LM pub; 2 Laura;
3 Fauns; 4 Eat it;
5 As are

Mensapuzzle

Which is the odd one out?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

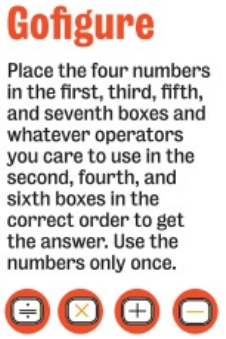
SudokuChallenge

6		5			9			
		3	7					9
1			3			2		
		9	5				1	2
	1			2			9	
2	5				8	3		
		1			3			8
9					6	1		
			1			4		7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 26
5 7 7 7

Medium = 5
2 6 6 9

Hard = 10
2 7 7 5

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

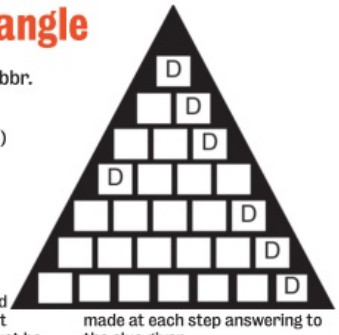
Differences: 1. Cord is different. 2. Badge is lower. 3. Design on lampshade is moved. 4. Stair railing is different. 5. Button is lower. 6. Back of bench is not as high.

Riddler

Odessa, Pauline and Rheanna each have a box of chocolates. They have a total of twenty three chocolates. The total of Odessa and Pauline's chocolates divided by the difference of chocolates between Odessa and Rheanna is five. How many chocolates does each have?

Alpha triangle

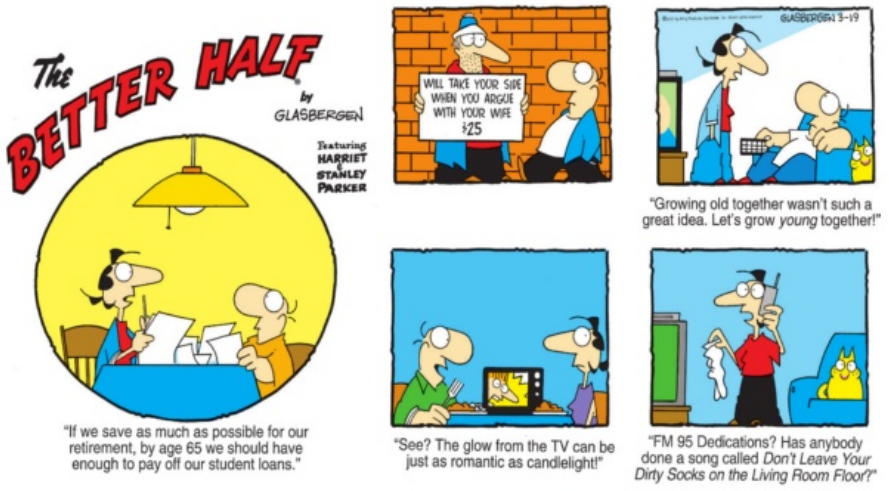
1 Five hundred
2 Advertisement, abbr.
3 Male youngster
4 Hill partner
5 Dragged (archaic)
6 Took away
7 Expressed joy

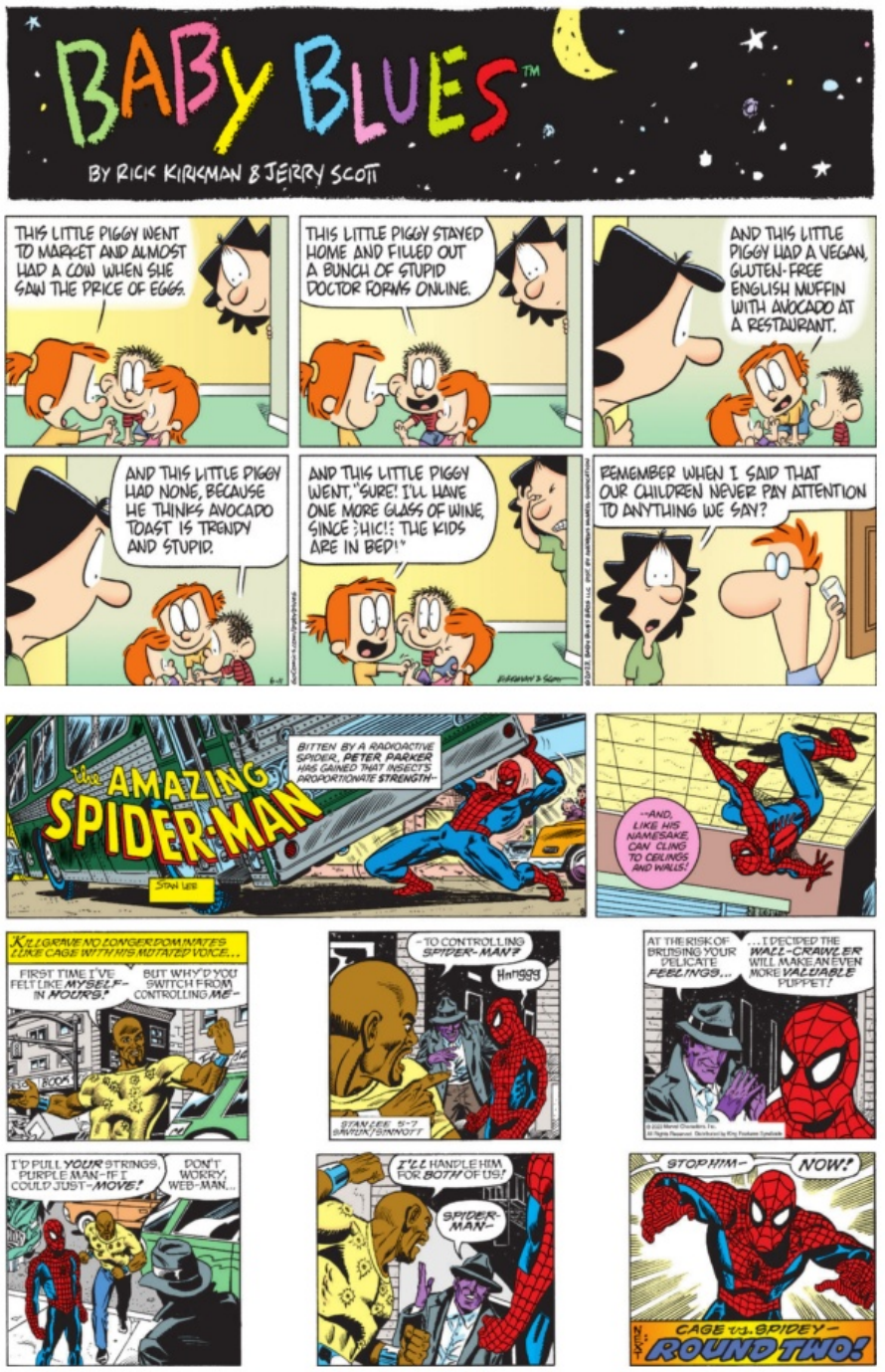


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"If we save as much as possible for our retirement, by age 65 we should have enough to pay off our student loans."
WILL TAKE YOUR SIDE WHEN YOU ARGUE WITH YOUR WIFE $25
"See? The glow from the TV can be just as romantic as candlelight!"
GLASBERGEN 3-19
"Growing old together wasn't such a great idea. Let's grow young together!"
"FM 95 Dedications? Has anybody done a song called Don't Leave Your Dirty Socks on the Living Room Floor?"


BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
THIS LITTLE PIGGY WENT TO MARKET AND ALMOST HAD A COW WHEN SHE SAW THE PRICE OF EGGS.
THIS LITTLE PIGGY STAYED HOME AND FILLED OUT A BUNCH OF STUPID DOCTOR FORMS ONLINE.
AND THIS LITTLE PIGGY HAD A VEGAN, GLUTEN-FREE ENGLISH MUFFIN WITH AVOCADO AT A RESTAURANT.
AND THIS LITTLE PIGGY HAD NONE, BECAUSE HE THINKS AVOCADO TOAST IS TRENDY AND STUPID.
AND THIS LITTLE PIGGY WENT, "SURE! I'LL HAVE ONE MORE GLASS OF WINE, SINCE HIC!! THE KIDS ARE IN BED!"
REMEMBER WHEN I SAID THAT OUR CHILDREN NEVER PAY ATTENTION TO ANYTHING WE SAY?

The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, PETER PARKER HAS GAINED THAT INSECT'S PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH--
STAN LEE
--AND, LIKE HIS NAMESAKE, CAN CLING TO CEILINGS AND WALLS!
KILGRAVE NO LONGER DOMINATES LUKE CAGE WITH HIS MOTIVATED VOICE...
FIRST TIME I'VE FELT LIKE MYSELF--IN HOURS!
BUT WHY'D YOU SWITCH FROM CONTROLLING ME--
BOOM
--TO CONTROLLING SPIDER-MAN?
Hnnggg
STAN LEE 'N' GARTH/TOMMOTT
AT THE RISK OF BRUISING YOUR DELICATE FEELINGS...
...I DECIDED THE WALL-CRAWLER WILL MAKE AN EVEN MORE VALUABLE PUPPET!
I'D PULL YOUR STRINGS, PURPLE MAN--IF I COULD JUST--MOVE!
DON'T WORRY, WEB-MAN...
I'LL HANDLE HIM FOR BOTH OF US!
SPIDER-MAN--
STOP HIM--
NOW!
CAGE vs. SPIDEY--
ROUND TWO!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, a positive moon may spread blessings. You may be confident. You may enjoy your work, which may speed up your current project. You may feel healthy. Your desire may come true. People around you will take help from you to solve their problems, which may increase your prestige in society.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, your moon is negative. You may feel dull and may face some health issues, which may affect your daily routine. Some of your known people may betray you. You are advised to keep your eyes open. You may be confused about making the right decision. It is advised that you not take any financial decisions related to your business. Keep your patience and avoid hurrying.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are blessed by a positive moon, which may help you make the right investment decisions. Your past investments may also give you profits. You are likely to start working on a new project, which will give you benefits in the long term. You may increase your network to improve your social status.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be busy at work. Your focus on your goal is now clear, which may help you complete your task before the deadline and with perfection. You may also enjoy your happy moments with the family. Singles are likely to find a soul mate. You may plan to renovate your house or office, which may enhance your status.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You are blessed by the moon; with the help of the elder's blessings, you may come out of last week's messy situation. With the help of destiny, you may observe some progress in your life. Your spiritual power may help you make the right decision. Your financial condition may improve.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you will be a victim of negative thoughts. Impatience and arrogance will push you back from taking difficult decisions. You will need the blessing of your elders, which will help you grow in your work. You should avoid making investments in zero assets. Love birds shall avoid discussing bad moments.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You are blessed by the moon today; you may expect to hear some good news in terms of your profession. Domestic life may be in full swings of joy. You are advised to avoid making arguments about worthless family issues. You can make important decisions when making investments in assets. Students may be focused on their studies.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today is good for your work; you may perform well at work. Your seniors may give you some responsibility in terms of promotions. You may be in a winning position in some litigation. The kid's health may be better now. You are likely to meet with any investment consultant in the future. You may have control over your hidden enemies.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be busy with kids' issues. You are likely to go on short trips in terms of a kid's academics. You may be able to do difficult tasks in an easy way. You may spend money on buying some artefacts or household stuff, which will improve your lifestyle. You may also spend on your friends and family members. Singles may find a soul mate; love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may have a dull feeling, and some sort of negativity may be noticed around you. Dull feelings may make you angry; it is advised to control your way of speaking, and harsh speaking can create problems around you. You are likely to deny any suggestion given by your well-wisher. But somehow, by late evening, things may be under control.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Self-respect may protect you from negative people around you. You are likely to be more emotional about family-related issues. You may perform well at work, and you are likely to complete your task on time, which may boost your confidence. Your inner self may help you make difficult decisions in terms of business growth.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you are blessed by the moon; you may be able to control spending over worthless stuff. You are likely to meet some adviser or get some direction, which may help you invest your savings into better options and may boost your financial health. You may find yourself more polite with others, which may increase your respect among people around you.

KIDZONE

Gaurav KT, 7 Years, Sudarshan Vidya Mandir

Vignesh K, 10 Years, St. Joseph Boys High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(6/(9^3)-√(16^3))÷(6√(4^3))=
(6^3/3-4√3)÷(6^2/3)=
(18√3-4√3)÷12√3=
14√3/12√3 = 7/6

BULL'S EYE
cell, cello, clog, COLLEGE

FAST FIVE

P	A	S	T	A
L	U	N	A	R
U	R	A	T	E
M	A	F	I	A
B	L	U	E	S

STRIKE OUT

G	L	A	D	E	S	■	T	A	B	A	R	D	■	■
N	■	K	E	M	M	E	T	■	Y	■	E	■	■	■
N	■	K	■	E	M	M	E	T	■	Y	■	E	■	■
I	N	S	A	N	E	■	M	O	H	A	I	R	■	■
D	■	A	K	E	N	A	I	■	L	■	L	A	■	■
I	S	L	E	■	T	A	R	■	D	A	D	O	■	■
A	G	A	P	E	■	I	■	D	A	M	N	S	■	■
A	■	A	S	I	N	I	N	E	■	U	■	■	■	■
R	H	E	T	T	■	A	■	L	L	O	T	■	■	■
E	S	T	E	■	S	R	I	■	P	A	R	C	■	■
K	■	I	■	E	K	I	N	G	■	C	■	U	■	■
N	A	V	I	E	S	■	E	R	A	S	E	D	■	■
O	■	N	■	P	E	A	C	E	■	A	■	B	■	■
C	H	I	D	E	D	■	I	B	E	R	I	A	■	■

QUICK

T	R	E	E	■	R	E	Y	N	O	L	D	S	■	■
H	■	D	■	E	■	L	■	E	■	T	■	■	■	■
G	R	A	F	F	I	T	I	■	S	T	I	R	■	■
I	■	G	■	T	■	C	■	O	■	E	■	■	■	■
S	W	I	M	S	■	A	I	R	S	H	I	P	■	■
■	■	R	■	K	■	■	■	E	■	X	■	■	■	■
S	U	B	O	R	N	■	S	T	O	D	G	E	■	■
L	■	■	O	■	■	U	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■
W	I	S	H	F	U	L	■	O	R	G	A	N	■	■
A	■	M	■	N	■	E	■	G	■	E	■	■	■	■
R	E	A	L	■	J	O	O	H	P	U	R	S	■	■
■	■	L	■	A	■	O	■	L	■	I	■	■	■	■
S	P	E	C	I	M	E	N	■	S	P	A	R	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
E: the rest are the same figure rotated

RIDDLER
Odessa = 11, Pauline = 4, Rhenna = 8

QUOTE UNCODE
Too many of us are not living our dreams because we are living our fears.

SUDOKU

6	8	5	2	4	9	7	3	1
4	2	3	7	6	1	5	8	9
1	9	7	3	8	5	2	4	6
8	7	9	5	3	4	6	1	2
3	1	4	6	2	7	8	9	5
2	5	6	9	1	8	3	7	4
7	6	1	4	5	3	9	2	8
9	4	2	8	7	6	1	5	3
5	3	8	1	9	2	4	6	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, AD, Lad, Dale, Haled, Hauled, Laughed.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 5 + 7 + 7 = 26
Medium
6 + 6 – 9 + 2 = 5
Hard
7 – 7 + 2 × 5 = 10

LOOP

KAKURO

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Fashion flair

Dia Mirza reveals her go-to items for fashion shows

Actor Dia Mirza always makes sure to exude grace with her fashion statement. Friday was no exception as she lit up the runway at Lakme Fashion Week in an ivory co-ord ensemble designed by Pankaj and Nidhi.

Dia paired the stunning outfit with a long embroidered jacket. She accentuated her look with minimal make-up and a white ear cuff made of pearls. Before hitting the show in the national capital, Dia spoke to ANI and revealed a checklist she follows before walking down the ramp.

"I always ensure everything is in place, including the jewellery, because it can tend to fall off. I don't want anything coming apart while I am walking," Dia said.

Despite being familiar with every aspect of the ramp walk, a wave of nervousness still hits Dia before she takes centre stage. "My heart always goes 'dhak dhak'. No matter how long you have been walking, you still feel that adrenaline rush and your heart starts to pound," she admitted.

Meanwhile, on the acting front, Dia is appreciated for her role in her latest release, 'Dhak Dhak', which also stars Ratna Pathak Shah, Sanjana Sanghi and Fatima Sana Shaikh.

'Dhak Dhak' brings a bunch of four women, all different from each other, daring to ride bikes to the world's highest motorable road, the Khardungla Pass. Before 'Dhak Dhak', Dia was seen in 'Bheed' and 'Thappad' movies that carried a social message to change society. Her "conscious choice" of movies comes from her desire to make a difference that can positively change people's lives. "I do make a conscious effort to choose stories intentionally that can help make a difference," Dia emphasised -ANI

Battle-ready

Director Meghna Gulzar is all set with her new film 'Sam Bahadur,' in which actor Vicky Kaushal will be seen portraying the role of India's war hero Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. Makers of the upcoming, highly anticipated biopic 'Sam Bahadur' on Friday unveiled the film's official trailer at a grand event in Mumbai.

Alia Bhatt took to Instagram stories to congratulate Vicky in response to the teaser. She wrote, "I remember the day @meghnagulzar told us the story of Sam on the sets of Raazi. Vicky sat there.. a twinkle in his eye.. hoping to one day be Sam. And wow @vickykaushal09 can't wait to see this one."

Talking about the film, it is based on the life of India's First Field Marshal and military might, Sam Manekshaw. Helmed by Meghna Gulzar, the film stars Vicky Kaushal, Sanya Malhotra and Fatima Sana Shaikh in the lead roles.

In the teaser, Vicky is seen as the Field Marshal and leading his team of soldiers, motivating them to fight for their country. The teaser also featured a glimpse of Sanya Malhotra and Fatima Sana Shaikh.' -ANI

Ode to nature

JALAPATHA (KANNADA)
3.0 RATING ★★★★★
- **DIRECTOR** Ramesh Begar
- **ACTORS** Pramod Shetty, Rajneesh, Nagashree, Abhishek Hebbar, Radhakrishna, Ravi Kumar, and Vishwanath Shetty.
- **Duration** 128 minutes
- **Certification** U

A scene from Jalapatha movie

Jalapatha, the second directorial venture by Ramesh Begar, delves deep into the pressing environmental concerns of the Malnad region. Following his debut film "Vaishampayana Theera," which shed light on the world of Yakshagana, Begar once again crafts a message-oriented narrative, emphasising the importance of environmental preservation.

One of Begar's notable strengths lies in his emphasis on a robust script and the effective execution of actors adhering to it. The film is enriched by the acting prowess of individuals with a theatre background, skilfully woven into the storyline.

The movie introduces us to Ramanna (Vishwanath), a concerned resident of Jaladurga, and Vasannayya, another resident deeply troubled by environmental degradation. The narrative takes an engaging turn when Purvi (Nagashree), a content creator, creates a video on Vanamalamma (Rekha Premkumar). This sets in motion a series of events involving Vihan (Rajneesh), Vanamalamma's grandson, and Purvi. Alarmed by rampant usage of single-use plastic and burning of waste, they decide to join hands with Rajiv Gowda (Abhishek Hebbar), a software engineer who wants to do some good for his native, to create awareness among the villagers on the ill effects of plastic and the need to protect the environment.

As the plot unfolds, we witness a delicate and heartfelt portrayal of love and emotions, masterfully enacted by Rajneesh and Nagashree. They come to know Purvi is a cancer patient. What happens to her and whether Vihan and his friends will succeed in creating awareness among the villagers is what Jalapatha is all about.

As far as the performance of the actors is concerned, Rajneesh and Nagashree look made for each other. Both of them compete with each other in love and emotional scenes. Pramod Shetty played a completely different role in this movie. It is the first time Pramod Shetty, known for playing a police officer, played this character in his acting career. Vishwanath Shetty, who played drunkard Soma, provides comedy. Ravikumar, who played the person suffering from gastric problems, also includes comedy.

Sadhvini Koppa, who debuts as a music director with this movie, has done an excellent job. Vinu Manas, who scored background music, deserves appreciation. Cinematographer Sashira has done a fantastic job behind the camera.

It is worth watching for those who want to know what is happening to the environment in the Malnad region.

-Y Maheswara Reddy

Thrilling debut

MARAKASTRA (KANNADA)
3.0 RATING ★★★★★
- **DIRECTOR** Gurumurthy Sunami
- **ACTORS** Malashri, Ayyappa P Sharma, Harshika Poonacha, Ugram Manju, Dhanakumar, and Mico Nagaraj.
- **Duration** 156 minutes
- **Certification** UA

Malashree in Kannada movie Marakaastra

Gurumurthy Sunami marks his directorial debut with "Markastra," a film that showcases his remarkable speed and talent behind the camera. The film delves into many societal issues, weaving a narrative around a complex web of themes, including land disputes, philanthropy, black magic, superstition, corruption, and politics. Director Gurumurthy Sunami not only helms the direction but also steps into the shoes of an arrogant advocate on screen.

The story unfolds with Professor Shankar (Dhanakumar) urging students to value their motherland and singing a song explaining the importance of different locations in the country. The plot turns dark as a black magician performs rituals for MLA Muddurama's (Mico Nagaraj) ambitions of becoming the chief minister. Subsequently, arrests are made, setting the stage for a twisted tale of mystery and intrigue.

A TV journalist, Nandini (Harshika Poonacha), becomes a target of ruthless criminals, only to be rescued by Bharath, a mine worker managing an old age home. The narrative gains momentum as a series of unexplained deaths occur, catching the attention of Superintendent of Police Janhavi (Malashri). The story takes unexpected twists, revealing links between characters and uncovering the true mastermind behind the murders.

In terms of performance, Malashri shines, portraying her role with conviction, while Ugram Manju delivers a compelling act, especially in murder scenes. Harshika Poonacha impresses as a TV journalist, and Ayyappa P Sharma and Mico Nagaraj offer commendable support. The special song, "Glamour Gaadi," adds excitement, catering to the masses.

However, the film isn't without flaws, with a few scenes seeming out of place, like a police officer resorting to unconventional weapons during an action sequence. Additionally, the portrayal of a black magician causing turmoil in a happy family and influencing a suspect in police custody, along with the depiction of a village fair without adequate security, raises some eyebrows. Overall, it is worth watching for those who love to watch action flicks.

-Y Maheswara Reddy